

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:278

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2000

VOTING THROUGH POSTAL BALLOT PAPERS BY ARMED FORCES

VIJAY GOEL

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Armed Forces and para-military personnel enjoy their right to vote through postal ballot papers;
- (b) if so, whether these postal papers are issued to them in time;
- (c) if so, the number out of them have availed of this facility during the year 1998 and 1999 elections, separately;
- (d) whether the Government are thinking of Proxy Voting for Armed Forces; and
- (e) if so, the progress made in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) AN
MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHR
JAITLEY)

- (a) The Armed Forces of the Union including paramilitary forces and members of a force to which the provisions of the Army Act, 1950 have been made applicable, are inter alia eligible to vote through postal ballot.
- (b) Yes sir.
- (c) The Election Commission of India has intimated that it is not possible to give the break-up of service voters category-wise and no separate statistics with regard to armed forces personnel, etc. is available with it.
- (d) and (e) The Government has decided to provide an additional option to the members of the armed forces, etc., to vote through the proxy system at elections. Accordingly, the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 9.12.1999 which is under examination by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs.